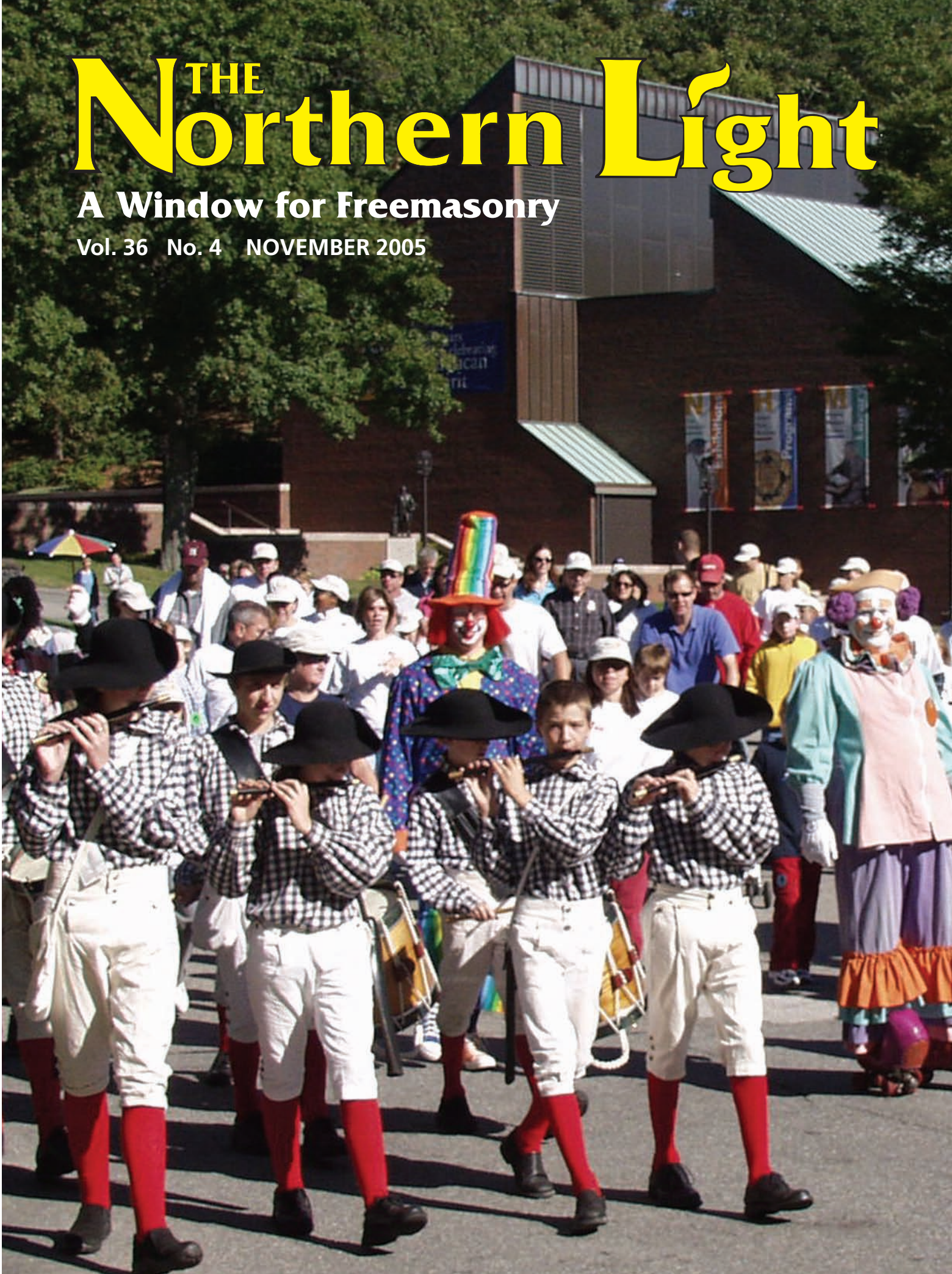


THE Northern Light

A Window for Freemasonry

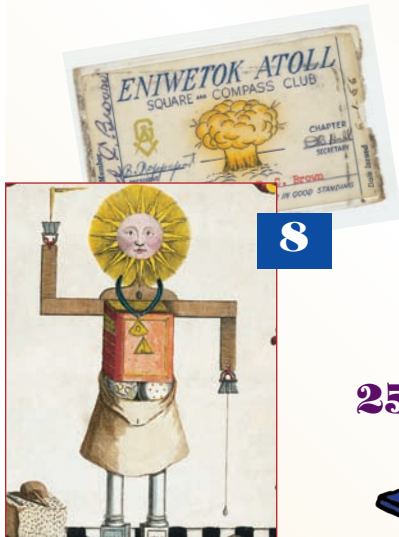
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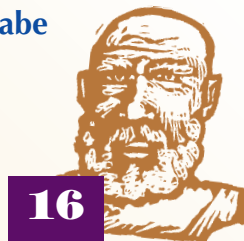
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Northern Masonic Jurisdiction, U.S.A.

SOVEREIGN GRAND COMMANDER
Walter E. Webber, 33°

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“Charity is at the heart of Masonry
and can take different forms.”

— Walter E. Webber, 33°



A Tradition of Caring

Love is not love unless it is given away. I was talking with a dear friend recently who indicated that he not only had raised a lot of money for various good causes but also had contributed a fair amount of his own money. He also went on to say that every time he gave money away he found that he wanted to do more the next time around.

Most of us may not be as fortunate to be able to continually increase our donations year after year, but giving to others is a way of life. Masonry teaches us that man is essentially designed to be interactive with his fellow man. Frequently we offer aid without even realizing it. In one of our degrees we are reminded that a Mason's charity should be as equally diffused as are the rays of the noonday sun.

When the book on Masonic philanthropy was published a number of years ago, it was determined that there was no way to tabulate the aid extended by individual lodges to members in need over the years. The assistance was offered quietly and without fanfare.

What can be tabulated is the amount expended today to those outside the fraternity. This is reflected in our Scottish Rite Charities.

Charity is at the heart of Masonry and can take a number of different forms, and yet all charity yields a favorable result. Sometimes it may be in the form of a smile, a word of encouragement, a brief visit, a material stipend, a favorable recommendation, the mowing of a neighbor's lawn, or the delivery and stacking of fire-

wood. All are simple acts of brotherly love, concern and compassion.

We have all heard the expression that to those to whom much has been given, from them much is expected. A Mason understands that his commitment to family is first and foremost. But once his commitment is fulfilled, where does he go? How does he perpetuate his existence? What mark does he leave that he, in fact, passed this way?

When a Mason can invest in the enrichment of another person's mind, when he can help others reach the fullness of their God-given potential, then he has accomplished something. And he feels good about it. He not only has done something for an individual but also has done so much more. He has improved the civic fabric of this great country. He has made a difference.

Every day we as Scottish Rite Masons are making a difference, making our mark, and leading the way by being part of the greatest fraternity in the world. I am so very proud of the way in which our members provide leadership, assist with the Masonic education of other members, and contribute their time, talent and finances to strengthen our Scottish Rite Charities. It is the combined effort of so many that allows us to continue to serve others.

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Walter E. Webber".

Sovereign Grand Commander

Annual Meeting Highlights

Grand Rapids Hosts Session

Medical therapy during the summer forced Sovereign Grand Commander Walter E. Webber, 33°, to miss the Annual Meeting of the Supreme Council at Grand Rapids in August. Physicians insisted that the therapy was necessary as a follow-up to his surgery in the spring. The Commander returned to the office on a full-time basis in September.

In his absence at Grand Rapids, Grand Lieutenant Commander Lawrence D. Inglis, 33°, presided at the executive and general sessions and hosted special functions. For the conferral of the 33° degree, Past Grand Commander Robert O. Ralston, 33°, returned to the position of Commander.



Retiring. Five Deputies have retired. Ill. Brothers James E. Olmstead, 33°, of Ohio, and Terry D. Bentzel, 33°, of Pennsylvania, will continue as Active Members of the Supreme Council. Three others retired not only as Deputies but also as Active Members. They are: Ill. Brothers Robert W. Clarke, 33°, of Massachusetts; Robert E. Hansen, 33°, of New Hampshire, and Phillip C. Kenney, 33°, of Illinois.

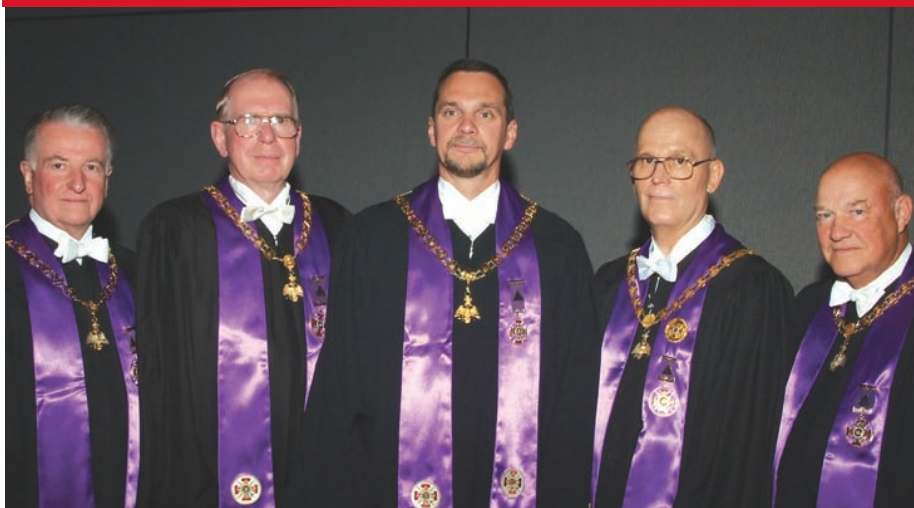
Two other Active Members, Ill. Brothers Donald J. Soberg, 33°, of Wisconsin, and Martin R. Schuller, 33°, of Ohio, reached the mandatory retirement age and were granted Active Emeritus status.

With the retirement of Ill. Brother Kenney, the new "dean" of the Supreme Council (senior Active Member) is Ill. C. DeForrest Trexler, 33°.



New positions. Replacing the retiring Deputies are Ill. Brothers Neil M. Smalley, 33°, of Ohio; Donald G. Hicks

NEW DEPUTIES



Donald G. Hicks Jr. (Massachusetts), William L. McCarrier (Pennsylvania), Richard W. Elliot (New Hampshire), Lawrence D. Inglis (Illinois), and Neil M. Smalley (Ohio) will supervise Scottish Rite activity in their state.

Jr., 33°, of Massachusetts; Richard W. Elliot, 33°, of New Hampshire; Lawrence D. Inglis, 33°, of Illinois, and William L. McCarrier, 33° of Pennsylvania.

Ill. John Wm. McNaughton, 33°, was elected Grand Lieutenant Commander, replacing Ill. Brother Inglis, who has taken a new role as Deputy for Illinois.

Ill. James L. Tungate, 33°, has accepted the position of Grand Treasurer General.

Ill. Stephen E. Carpenter, 33°, replaces the retiring Ill. Brother Kenney as Grand Master General of Ceremonies.



New Active Members. Five new Active Members were elected to the governing board of the Supreme Council.

Ill. Benny L. Grisham, 33°, of Lin-

coln, IL, is currently the Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Illinois. He was Grand Master in 1996-98 and Grand Treasurer, 1998-2003. As a member of the Scottish Rite Valley of Springfield, IL, he was Sovereign Prince, 1987-88, and Commander-in-Chief, 1995-96. He received the 33° in 1983.

Ill. **James R. Filliez**, 33°, of Minerva, OH, is president of Filliez Plumbing & Heating Company. A Scottish Rite Mason since 1973, he was Sovereign Prince in the Valley of Canton, OH, and has been the Deputy's Representative since 2001. He received the 33° in 1991.

Ill. **Edward R. Trosin**, 33°, of Tonawanda, NY, is a retired information systems manager at Bell Aerospace Textron. He has presided over all three York Rite bodies and was Grand Commander of the New York Grand Commandery in 1987 and Grand High Priest of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter in

1993. He is currently completing his second year as Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of New York. Within the Scottish Rite, he has been Sovereign Prince in the Valley of Buffalo and was Deputy's Representative, 1997-2002. He received the 33° in 1992.

Ill. **Mark C. Roth**, 33°, of Canterbury, NH, is a management systems administrator for human resources and payroll in the state of New Hampshire. He is also an ordained clergyman and a Grand Chaplain for the Grand Lodge. In the Scottish Rite Valley of Concord, NH, he has been Thrice Potent Master, Most Wise Master, and Deputy's Representative. He received the 33° in 1998.

Ill. **Michael A. DeWolf**, 33°, of Wausau, WI, is a retired president and CEO of an engineering firm. He was Grand Master for the Grand Lodge of Wisconsin in 2003 and is now the Grand Secretary. He was Thrice Potent Master in the Valley of Milwaukee in 1992 and received the 33° in 2004.



Medal of Honor. The Grand

NEW ACTIVE MEMBERS



Assuming positions on the governing board are **Benny L. Grisham** (Illinois), **Michael A. DeWolf** (Wisconsin), **Edward R. Trosin** (New York), **Mark C. Roth** (New Hampshire), and **James R. Filliez** (Ohio).

Lieutenant Commander, acting on behalf of the Sovereign Grand Commander, announced the selection of three recipients for the Supreme Council Medal of Honor.

Ill. **Robert E. Hansen**, 33°, became an Active Member in 1993 and Deputy for New Hampshire in 1999. As chairman of the Supreme Council Buildings and Grounds Committee, he supervised the construction of the Supreme Council headquarters addition in 2000.

Ill. **Phillip C. Kenney**, 33°, was elected an Active Member in 1985 and was the "dean" of the Active Membership when he retired this year. He had served as Deputy for Illinois since 2000. He provided a noteworthy ritualistic portrayal in the 33° and created an impressive ceremony for the presentation of the Meritorious Service Award.

Ill. **James E. Olmstead**, 33°, an Active Member since 1995 and Deputy for Ohio since 1996, has been a key player on several Supreme Council committees, including the State of the Rite/Strategic Planning Committee. He has also endured great courage and perseverance in overcoming obstacles.

The Medal of Honor, instituted in 1995, has had only 13 previous recipients.



Class of 2005. There were 236 candidates who received the 33° in Grand Rapids. Three additional candidates received the degree in special session: George W. Burgh of Pennsylvania, John D. Williams of Connecticut, and Ralph C. Wilson Jr. of Michigan.

Four candidates received the degree posthumously: John O. Vartan of Pennsylvania, Clarence F. Stout of Indiana,

MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENTS



Robert E. Hansen, New Hampshire; **Phillip C. Kenney**, Illinois, and **James E. Olmstead**, Ohio.

VALLEY CREDIT CARD CONTEST

At the end of this year, five Valleys will win high-quality audio-visual equipment with a combined value of more than \$10,000.

How? By having the highest percentage of its members apply for the new Scottish Rite Platinum Visa Card from U.S. Bank.

Every new card generates \$50 in "card bounty" which goes directly to the charities and helps move your Valley higher in the bracket. At the end of the year the folks at U.S. Bank will tell us what percentage of members in each Valley have received their new Scottish Rite Platinum Visa Card.

The Valleys at the top of each bracket will receive a brand new LCD Projector, DVD player, a portable screen, and powered speakers as their prize. Visit www.supremecouncil.org/visa or call 1-800-853-5576 ext. 8449 to learn more about any of the credit options available to you.

GRAND MASTERS



Grand Masters from all 15 states within the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction attended the Supreme Council annual meeting. Seated: Roger L. Magoon (Wisconsin), Jeffrey B. Hodgdon (Massachusetts), John R. Campbell (Vermont), David W. Miller (Illinois), William Slater II (Pennsylvania), George S. Greytak (Connecticut), Richard P. Ruhland (Michigan).

Standing: Wyman P. Hallstrom Jr. (Rhode Island), Robert J. Sheridan (New Jersey), Donald D. Thomas (Delaware), Jim S. Deyo (Ohio), Grand Lt. Commander Lawrence D. Inglis, Claire V. Tusch (Maine), Edward R. Trosin (New York), Dennis T. Herrell (Indiana) and David J. Lamprey Sr. (New Hampshire).

Larry R. Nord of Pennsylvania, and Clarence C. VanHorn of New York. ➤

➤ There were 20 members above the age of 75 and 14 members younger than 45.

The youngest was Kent R. Pauli, a member of the Valley of Green Bay, WI, at the age of 34.

Class of 2006. There were 237 candidates elected to receive the 33° in Chicago next year. Unable to attend this year's session and carried over to 2006 were Raymond P. Cunningham Jr. of Maine and Robert J. Taylor of Pennsylvania.

Kern Award. The winner of this year's Kern award is the Valley of Middletown, NY. Accepting the plaque on behalf of the Valley was New York Deputy Harold L. Aldrich, 33°.

The award is presented each year to the Valley that attains the highest percentage of participation of members contributing to the "blue" envelope appeal. It is named in honor of the late Dr. Richard A. Kern, 33°, former Scottish Rite Deputy for Pennsylvania and chairman of the Supreme Council Committee on Benevolences.

Ritual Changes. The Committee on Ritualistic Matters recommended a revision to the ceremony for Meritorious Service Award as well as substantial revisions to the rituals of the 7° and 15°, a revised prologue for the 16°, a minor correction to the ritual of the 30°, and a title change for the name of the 12°.

Last year the rituals were distributed to the Valley Secretaries on a CD. Printed copies from the Supreme Council headquarters are no longer available. A new CD with the 2005 revisions will be sent to Valley Secretaries within the next few months with instructions that the previous disk should be returned to the Supreme Council or destroyed.

The name of the 12° has been changed from "Grand Master Architect" to "Master of Mercy," and the title of the 15° has been shortened to "Knight of the East."

A constitutional amendment was approved that requires the 31° and 32° "be exemplified in numerical sequence without any intervening degree."

The committee has been working on revisions to the 26°, but no changes have been approved as yet.

Valley Change. The Valley of Corning, NY, has surrendered the char-

ters of the Consistory, Chapter of Rose Croix and the Council of Princes of Jerusalem, transferring the assets of those bodies to the Corning Lodge of Perfection and transferring the members of those three bodies to the Valley of Rochester.

The action was passed unanimously at the New York Council of Deliberation in July and received final approval by the Supreme Council in August.

Constitutional Changes.

NEW GRAND LT. COMMANDER



John Wm. McNaughton
Indiana

The committee structure of the Supreme Council has been modified.

The Committee on Masonic Education and Program Development now includes youth programs and activities, eliminating a separate committee. The Committee on Benevolences becomes the Committee on Benevolences and Development.

The Committee on Constitutions, Laws and Jurisprudence now includes the duties of the former Dispensations and Charters Committee.

New standing committees include: Investments, Membership Development, Membership Services, and Information Systems and Communications. The former Northern Light Editorial Board is now officially the Media Advisory Board.

Some of these committees have been operating as special committees for the past few years.

The final change combines two former committees into the Committee on Records and Unfinished Business.



Valley Websites Receive Recognition. Following in the mode of the Brother Franklin Awards for Valley publications, the Supreme Council this year initiated a new tradition. At the annual meeting in Grand Rapids the first set of Valley Web Awards was announced.

The selections were made using four criteria: content, appearance, timeliness, and ease of use.

For 2005 the Valleys were placed into one of four groupings, based on membership enrollment.

For Category A, including those Valleys with fewer than 1,000 members, **Rochester** was recognized as having the best site. Honorable mention recognition was given to New York.

In Category B (Valleys with 1,000 to 2,500 members) **Bloomington** was chosen as the best site, with Philadelphia as honorable mention.

For Category C (Valleys with 2,500 to 5,000 members) **Danville** was picked as the winner, and Bay City was selected for honorable mention.

The Valleys of **Dayton** and **Columbus** were chosen as joint winners for Category D (Valleys with more than 5,000 members). Fort Wayne was recognized for an honorable mention.

For the Council of Deliberation websites, the state of Illinois was

Franklin Awards for Valley Publications



Winners of the 2005 Brother Franklin awards were announced during the Monday morning general session. The awards are presented annually to Valleys with outstanding publications. They are awarded on the basis of the size of the Valley membership. Receiving special recognition were the following:

Category I (Valleys with less than 1,000 members)

Best Publication

Valley of The Merrimack, MA Thomas E. Pulkkinen, 33°, editor

Honorable Mention

Valley of Portsmouth/Dover, NH Mark Weir, 32°, editor

Valley of Traverse City, MI James C. Larson, 32°, editor

Valley of Utica, NY William B. Williams, 33°, editor

Category II (Valleys with 1,000-2,000 members)

Best Publication

Valley of Bridgeport, CT Leo H. Lohrman, 33°, editor

Honorable Mention

Valley of Bloomington, IL Ronald K. Blue, 33°, editor

Valley of Erie, PA Eric M. Marshall, 33°, editor

Valley of Grand Rapids, MI Richard A. Burrows, 32°, editor

Valley of Milwaukee, WI Gary R. Beier, 32°, editor

Category III (Valleys with 2,000-4,000 members)

Best Publication

Valley of Freeport, IL John A. Reining, 33°, editor

Honorable Mention

Valley of Central Jersey, NJ Dennis R. Bator, 32° and Peter Lanka, 32°, editors

Valley of Northern NJ Roman K. Sobon, 33°, editor

Valley of Philadelphia, PA Stephen A. Morrison, 32°, editor

Valley of Southern NJ Charles A. Castley, 32°, editor

Category IV (Valleys with 4,000-6,500 members)

Best Publication

Valley of Chicago, IL Milan Vydareny, 32°, editor

Honorable Mention

Valley of Boston, MA Keith M. Curtis, 32° and Carl M. Hogan, 33°, editors

Valley of Cleveland, OH David B. Mackey, 32°, editor

Valley of Detroit, MI David R. Bedwell, 33°, editor

Category V (Valleys with more than 6,500 members)

Best Publication

Valley of Indianapolis, IN Jerry B. Collins, 33°, editor

Honorable Mention

Valley of Cincinnati, OH Donald W. Owens, 33°, editor

Valley of Columbus, OH Steven L. Smiseck, 32°, editor

Valley of Pittsburgh, PA D. William Roberts, 33°, editor

Sifting Through The Past

By MARK A. TABBERT, 32°

Gems from the Massachusetts Grand Lodge Collection

Last year the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts agreed to place its vast collection of artifacts on long-term loan with the National Heritage Museum in Lexington, MA.

Perhaps the most important Masonic collection in North America, it traces its beginnings to the first regular and duly constituted lodge in 1733. It includes many important documents, aprons, jewels and other artifacts.

In the late 1800s, the collection was supplemented by the donations of Grand Master (and later Sovereign Grand Commander) Samuel Crocker Lawrence.

Through the 20th century, the collection continued to grow.

It expanded beyond Massachusetts and blue lodge Freemasonry to include artifacts from around the world and from the York and Scottish Rites, the Shrine and other Masonic-affiliated bodies.

In the fall of 2004 the Grand Lodge collection was transferred to the National Heritage Museum as a long-term loan (see *The Northern Light*, Nov. 2004).

Over the past year the staff has begun the slow process of inventorying each and every item.

To date more than 1,000 of the estimated 8,000 items have been processed and re-housed in modern storage containers.

During the inventory phase the collection is not available for general use without special permission from the Grand Lodge.



MARK A. TABBERT, 32°, curator of Masonic and fraternal collections at the National Heritage Museum, is the author of *American Freemasons*.



General Tom Thumb (born Charles Stratton) received this apron when he became a Royal Arch Mason in Jerusalem Chapter No. 13, Bridgeport, CT, in 1862.

Although the museum staff is systematically processing the collection, a few of the more important discoveries to date are particularly noteworthy.

The bulk of the first 1,000 items inventoried is made up of engravings, lithographs and Masonic membership certificates.

Included are some 350 portraits of both famous Americans and important American Freemasons.

Among the artifacts was found an original engraving of the well-known "A Freemason Form'd Out of the Material of his Lodge" dated 1754.

Frequently reproduced over the last

250 years, it was engraved by Alexander Slade in London. A person could buy a copy without color or pay extra to have it painted.

One apron discovered among the many processed provides a good sample of the 400 estimated aprons in the Grand Lodge collection.

Created in 1791, the apron was owned by John Row of Tyrian Lodge in Gloucester, MA. The pen and ink design on lambskin bears the Latin motto: "Fear God and Love your Country."

Another unique apron was owned by Charles S. Stratton (1838-83), better known as Tom Thumb.

The Grand Lodge collection holds his miniature embroidered Royal Arch Chapter apron and collar dating from the 1860s.

Bro. Stratton was made a Mason in



This rare Knights Templar chapeau from the 1830s was found in its original box. It was owned by Sir Knight William Pierce of Boston Commandery No. 2.

St. John's Lodge No. 3, which has since merged with Fidelity Lodge in Fairfield, CT. He was exalted in Jerusalem Royal Arch Chapter No. 13 and received all the York Rite and Scottish Rite degrees in Bridgeport, CT.

By 1810 and the adoption of the Thomas Smith Webb ritual lecture, Masonic aprons became more standardized.

Accordingly in 1814 engraver Edward Horsman submitted to the Grand Lodge for approval a copper plate design.

The Grand Lodge accepted his design and continues to hold the plate. From that plate dozens, if not hundreds, of aprons were produced.

Included among the vast assortment of Masonic badges ribbons and pins are several Past Masters' jewels.

One particularly nice silver Past Master jewel was given by St. John's Lodge, Boston, to James Dickson in 1812. It has an elegant design of compasses, sun burst with quadrant arc, and an inscription on the back.

Another rare artifact is a 1790 ceramic pitcher from the Independent Boston Fusiliers. The pitcher is one of 100 specially ordered by Samuel Jenks and presented to each member of the Fusiliers.

Jenks was a Revolutionary War veteran and a member of King Solomon's Lodge in Charlestown, MA. Above the central motif are various Masonic symbols.

In 1794, the Fusiliers led the Masonic procession to lay the cornerstone of the new Massachusetts State House in Boston. Grand Master Paul Revere presided at the ceremony.

The York Rite developed in the late 1700s and early 1800s with the support of Grand Lodges.

It is not surprising, then, that the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts holds many valuable York Rite artifacts.

Besides many Royal Arch, Royal and Select, and Knights Templar aprons,

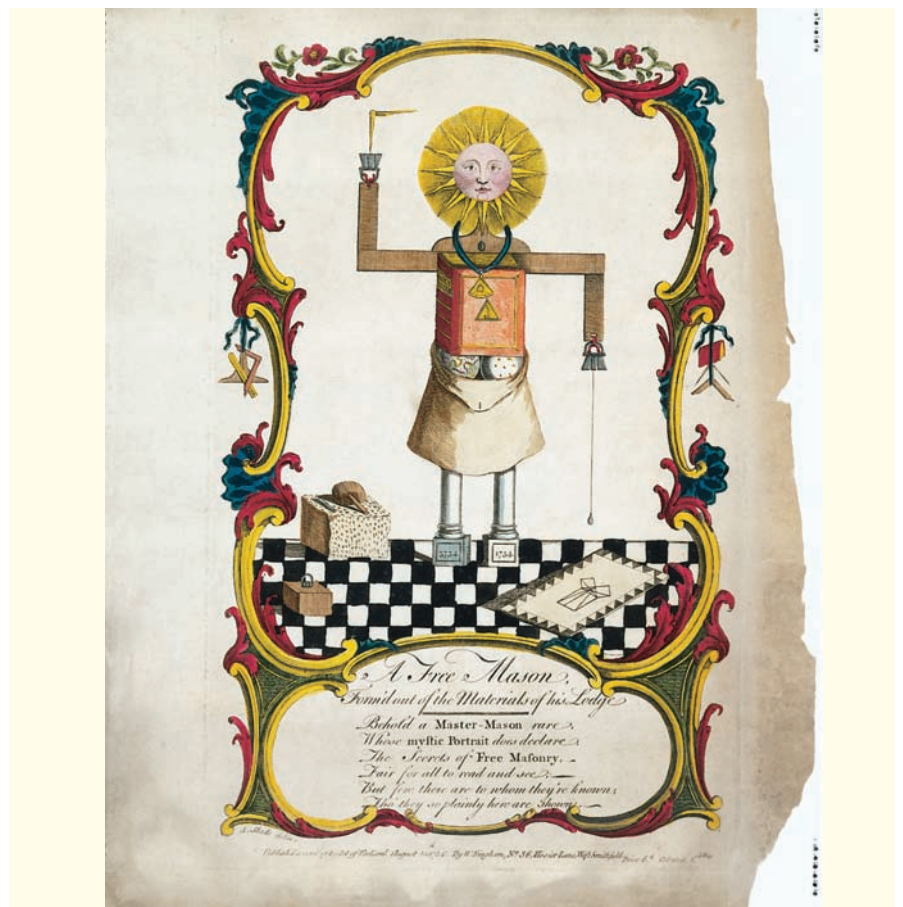
membership certificates and souvenirs, the collection contains several items important to the development of the Rite.

Included in the collections are several early 1800s silver Mark Master's jewels and Royal Arch Chapter regalia.

More important is an Irish Knights Templar membership certificate dated 1775 — perhaps one of the oldest known to exist.

Nearly as rare is an 1830s Knights Templar beaver chapeau, worn by Sir Knight William Pierce Jr. of Boston Commandery No. 2.

The Grand Lodge collection also ➤



This image has been reproduced countless times, but the Grand Lodge collection holds an original 1754 engraving of "A Freemason Form'd Out of the Material of his Lodge." The engraving was created by Alexander Slade in London.

► holds many items related to the Morgan incident and the subsequent anti-Masonic period of the 1820s and 1830s.

One such item is a perfectly preserved anti-Masonic broadside, circa 1830. The broadside announces the lecture of a well-known anti-Mason, Avery Allen, at Boston's Pantheon Hall.

By demonstrating the Royal Arch degrees, Allen sought to make known what he believed were various irreligious and anti-American aspects of Freemasonry.

He also thought that by revealing Freemasonry's so-called "secret" rituals the fraternity would be less attractive to potential members.



St. John's Lodge, Boston, silver Past Master's jewel given to Wor. Brother James Dickson in 1812.

Wherever Masons meet they often form "Square and Compass Clubs." One such club was formed by Masons serving in the Armed Forces stationed on Eniwetok Atoll during hydrogen bomb tests in the 1950s. This card was owned by Bro. Frederick C. Brown.



Two discoveries in a large box of photographs are of particular importance. The first is a photo album of several dozen prominent Freemasons. Compiled in the 1880s, the album contains not only American Grand Masters and leaders of the York and Scottish Rites, but also many important British Masons as well as images of temples in China and South America.

Another discovery contains four 1907 prints of President Theodore Roosevelt assisting the Grand Lodge in laying the cornerstone of the Pilgrim Monument in Provincetown, MA.

One print shows Bro. Roosevelt shaking

hands with an operative stonemason after the ceremony.

Lastly, and perhaps most curious, is a Masonic square and compass dues card from 1956 with a mushroom cloud on it.

Called "Eniwetok Atoll Square and Compass Club," it was owned by Bro. Frederick C. Brown, who was stationed near Eniwetok during thermonuclear bomb tests.

Although this is but a sampling of the collection, working with the full support of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts, a full inventory is expected to be completed in the next few years.

No doubt many more important and curious objects will be discovered. Ultimately it is hoped that this exciting collection will be enjoyed and studied by Masons, scholars and the general public through exhibition, research, publication, and presentation on the museum's website.



Gage Collection Becomes Lending Library

Committed to the preservation and dissemination of Masonic history and information, the late Ill. Wallace Marsh Gage, 33°, devoted much of his energy, during his 51 years in the craft, assembling an archive of Masonic books and related materials. In 2001 he approached the staff at the National Heritage Museum in Lexington, MA, located at Supreme Council headquarters, with a plan for a lending library. To create it he would donate his 1,200 volumes. Bro. Gage passed away in 2004.

The National Heritage Museum accepted the collection with the understanding that the books would be available for loan to members of the fraternity. The Van Gordon-Williams library at the museum is considered a research library, but the Gage collection marks the beginning of a new section to be known as a lending library. From time to time new books will be added to this section.

The "Wallace M. Gage Masonic Book Collection," was officially dedicated at the museum in late October. With shelving donated by his family and Masonic friends, his books can now be shared with those he served for over half a century.



The HERITAGE SHOP



Adjustable suspenders with the square & compasses on white or black background.



**NATIONAL
HERITAGE
MUSEUM**

100% cotton low profile cap is available in black with a 32° embroidered gold emblem or in navy or stone with the square & compasses emblem.



A set of four dress shirt studs with the square & compasses in gold on a blue background.



A 100% cotton polo shirt with the 32° gold embroidery emblem. Available in black or white.

Become a museum member and receive benefits such as a newly redesigned 12-page full-color newsletter, and a ten percent discount on orders from the Heritage Shop.

With an annual membership of \$100 or more, receive a curator-led tour of exhibitions, a quarterly letter from the director, and reciprocal membership at 150 North American museums, offering free admission and applicable discounts. (For a complete list of participating museums visit nationalheritagemuseum.org)

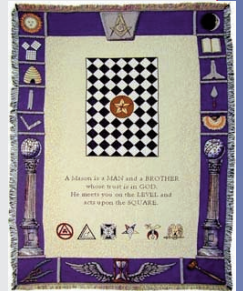
To join, visit the website, or call Suzanne at (781) 457-4103.

Member levels: Senior/Student, \$30; Individual, \$40; Dual, \$50; Family, \$60; Contributor, \$100; Associate, \$250; Benefactor, \$500.

"Washington as a Freemason" unframed print. Size: 16" x 20".



100% cotton woven coverlet beautifully displays Masonic symbols. Perfect as a throw or wall hanging. Size: 48" x 60".



This beautifully illustrated book explores the role played by Freemasons in the development of the country, and reasons why men have joined the fraternity.



Description	Price	Size	Qty	Total Price
The Square & Compasses				
Suspenders (White Background)	\$13.95			
Suspenders (Black Background)	\$13.95			
"Washington as a Freemason" print	\$27.95			
Shirt Studs (set of four)	\$19.95			
Cap (Navy, one size fits all)	\$19.95			
Cap (Stone, one size fits all)	\$19.95			
Coverlet	\$54.95			
32° Masonic				
Cap (Black)	\$19.95			
Polo Shirt Black (M, L, XL)	\$34.95			
Polo Shirt Black (XXL)	\$39.95			
Polo Shirt White (M, L, XL)	\$34.95			
Polo Shirt White (XXL)	\$39.95			
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Origins of Indian Pudding

By ALAN E. FOULDS

Ancient Thanksgiving dessert still popular

As members Jurisdiction-wide finish raking leaves and replacing their screens with storm windows, holiday planning moves into high gear.

Thanksgiving, like most holidays, has certain traditions associated with it. Of course, with this particular day, those rituals center on food.

For most of us, turkey is the star, but we can't forget the cranberry sauce, stuffing, mashed potatoes, Aunt Min's "ambrosia," or Uncle Carl's cornbread.

A footnote to the menu, possibly concentrated in the northeast, but one that could show up anywhere, is a unique dish called "Indian pudding."

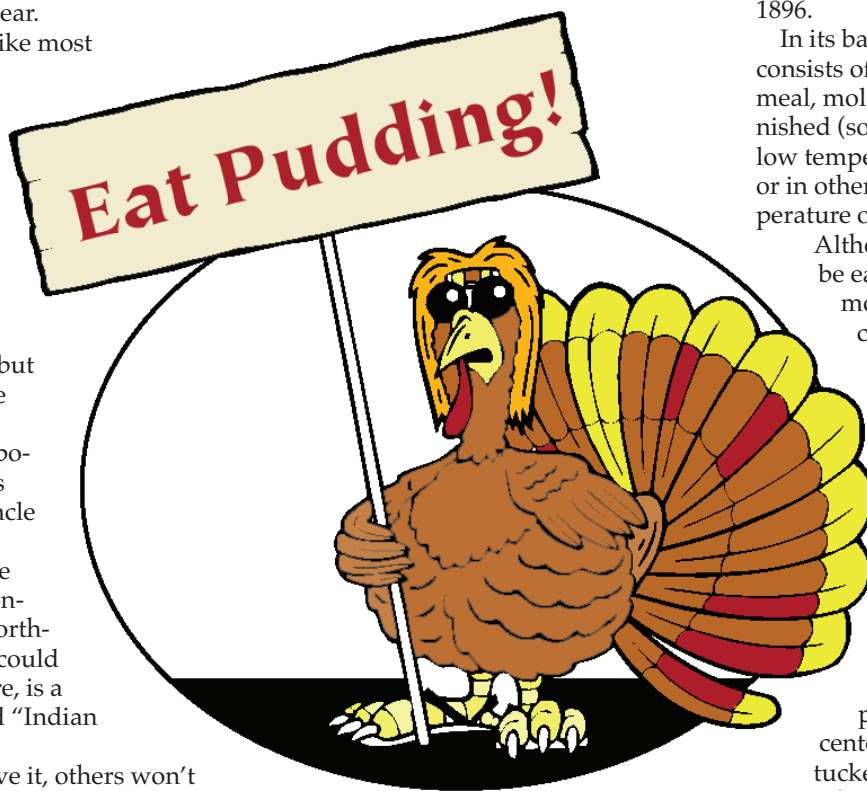
Some people love it, others won't touch the stuff, but for many, the holiday isn't official unless it appears right after the main course is cleared away.

Research seems to indicate that it originated in New England, maybe as early as 1621 with the Pilgrims' first Thanksgiving in Plymouth.

Some legends say that the Native Americans brought it to the feast. Other sources hint that the name simply comes from its main ingredient, cornmeal, once commonly called "Indian meal."

A later version claims that it gained prominence during the days leading to the American Revolution.

Colonists protesting the tax on sugar, substituted molasses as a sweetener. Since this particular dish calls for molasses, it became patriotic



to serve it.

A quick check online reveals no shortage of opinions, however. A "Google" search returns 54,800 entries, beaten by "Yahoo," showing no less than 65,500. All sorts of variations and origins are noted.

Easily found are "Vermont" Indian pudding, "Nantucket" Indian pudding, or the much more generic "New England" variety.

Recipes can also be found at such diverse sites as "Jewish.com," a Southwest Colorado site, and another entry from someone called "Bayou

Bill."

A popular version appears in the original Boston Cooking-School Cook Book, published by Fannie Farmer in 1896.

In its basic form this holiday dessert consists of varying degrees of cornmeal, molasses, and milk, slightly burnished (some would say burned), at a low temperature, about 200 degrees, or in other variations at a high temperature of 450 degrees or more.

Although purists claim it should be eaten by itself, modernists are more likely to garnish it with cinnamon, or even better, ice cream.

Light-hearted stories have been penned, featuring the pudding, almost rivaling its Christmas counterpart, fruitcake.

One facetious story, written by James Everett Grieder, called "The Proof is in the Pudding," relates a tale of how Indian

pudding was almost at the center of a war between Nantucket and Martha's Vineyard.

Another humorous yarn claims that the only reason the dessert still exists is to protect people's feelings.

As that story goes, the Native Americans were given the task of bringing dessert to the first Thanksgiving. The pudding was accidentally overcooked, but it was too late to make anything new, so it was brought to the feast as is.

The Pilgrims, not wanting to insult their guests, raved about the confection. Hearing that the European settlers apparently liked their food burnt, they did it again the next year, not wanting to insult the Pilgrims. And on it goes to this day.

Despite the levity, Indian pudding has always had a strong following. It even appears on the menus of many restaurants.

Historic Wayside Inn, of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow fame, lists "Hot Indian Pudding from the Bakeshop." The Union Oyster House, in operation since 1826, places it first on the dessert list.

The name mentioned most often in connection with Indian pudding is Durgin-Park restaurant. An ancient eatery in downtown Boston, it has been there long enough for "your grandfather, and perhaps your great grandfather to have dined there," the slogan boasts.

Executive chef Kurt Vogel says that during the peak months he makes 60 gallons, twice a week. As things slow down in January and February they cut back to once weekly.

Although not a huge fan himself, he considers it a "signature" dish. He says that both regulars and tourists ask for it.

Some come in specifically for the Indian pudding. Others feel that they have to try it "to see what it's all

about," says the chef, who notes that often one dish will be ordered for a table so everyone can sample it.

The menu says it is "dark brown with substantial gravity, smells like roasted corn, and tastes like the first Thanksgiving."

Recipes for 'A Nice Indian Pudding'

The following recipes are extracted from *American Cookery* (Hartford, 1796) by Amelia Simmons. The three are the oldest known printed versions:

- No. 1:** 3 pints scalded milk, 7 spoons fine Indian meal, stir well together while hot, let stand till cooled; add 7 eggs, half pound raisins, 4 ounces butter, spice and sugar, and bake one and a half hours.
- No. 2:** 3 pints scalded milk to one pint meal salted; cool, add 2 eggs, 4 ounces butter, sugar or molasses and spice q.s. [as needed] it will require two and a half hours baking.
- No. 3:** Salt a pint meal, wet with one quart milk, sweeten and put into a strong cloth, brass or bell metal vessel, stone or earthen pot secure from wet and boil 12 hours.

Kathleen Curtin, food historian at historic "Plimoth Plantation" in Plymouth, MA, says that the pudding might have evolved from boiled corn meals prepared by Native Americans. The English settlers added spices to it.

Sometime in the mid-1600s molasses was added, giving it the classic consistency and taste we know today.

The first known recording of Indian pudding appears in Amelia Simmons' *American Cookery*, published as the country's first cookbook in 1796. Simmons actually includes three versions.

Curtin says that Indian pudding recipes were generally included in all American cookbooks, regardless of region, until about the turn of the 20th century, when it became closely associated with New England.

In addition to her duties at Plimoth Plantation, Ms. Curtin is the author of *Giving Thanks*, a history of the Thanksgiving holiday told through recipes. It was recently published by Clarkson-Potter.

Stories as to its origin may vary, but it is clear that Indian pudding has been with us for a long time.

Whether you hail from New England or just daydream of another time, the dish is reminiscent of our nation's earliest days.

As you and your family gather around the Thanksgiving table this year, just remember to leave enough room for an ancient traditional dish — one that is tied inextricably to the season, the holidays, and to our heritage — Indian pudding. It's as American as

MASONIC WORD MATH

How to solve: Start with the first word. Add to it the letters of the second word. Then add or subtract the letters of the following words. Total the remaining letters and unscramble them to find a word associated with Masonry.

(SILLY) + (HAPPENING) – (PLAN)
+ (SOOTHE) – (NOISE) +
(POSITIONS) – (STONE) + (TENSE)
– (SITTING) – (SEE)

=

Clue for this puzzle appears on page 16.
Answer from previous issue: DUE GUARDS

32° Masonic Learning Centers for Children, Inc.

Walking from Maine to Illinois

In what has developed into a fall tradition, the “Walks to Help Children With Dyslexia” again blanketed the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction, stretching from Portland, ME, to Belleville, IL — and from early September to late October. Ohio alone hosted nine such events.

All of the walks featured a post-event celebration, with music, face painting, balloon sculpture and other such activities. In Lexington, MA, at Supreme Council headquarters, Shrine clowns played an important and conspicuous role.

Chief sponsors for the dyslexia walks included Barton-Cotton, Eagle Bank, Eastern Bank, Harvard Pilgrim Healthcare, Monument Staffing, Morgan & Morgan, and Smith Barney.

With feet that large, it is no surprise that Rollo needs to help his fellow Shrine clown after the walk.



On the cover: The William Diamond Fife and Drum Corps of Lexington, MA, led off the “Walk to Help Children with Dyslexia.” The walk, which started at Supreme Council headquarters, passed in front of the National Heritage Museum.

Endorsements from around the Jurisdiction

In September, the initial level Orton-Gillingham training at the Wilmington, DE, center was approved by both the Delaware Professional Standards Board and Delaware State Board of Education as a “professional development cluster.”

This designation allows Delaware teachers to receive an automatic two percent salary raise upon successful completion of the course. The current number of approved professional development clusters available to teachers is small.

Candace Bedrock, Wilmington center director, and Kathleen Stone, Wilmington chairperson, developed and guided the proposal through the rigorous approval process.

This approval by the state of Delaware provides a strong endorsement of the quality of the learning center training program.

Meanwhile, through the efforts of Jean Colner, the Columbus center director, all Ohio learning center initial level Orton-Gillingham training programs have been designated as a “highly qualified professional development course.”

This designation allows Ohio reading specialists/teachers to meet the “highly-qualified teacher” requirement of the “No Child Left Behind” federal legislation. This legislation requires all teachers to meet the highly qualified teacher requirement by July 2006.

Feedback From The Field

Working for a cause, such as improving the lives of those afflicted with dyslexia, one can often get caught up in the mechanics of operating a learning center or in the fund-raising designed to assure the future of the program. It can become easy to forget that real people and real lives are involved.

The following statement, excerpted from a letter sent by Sherry Dillbeck, a tutor in training, explains in concise but eloquent detail the importance of the 32° Masonic Learning Centers for Children, Inc.

Words — directly from a child or parent whose life has been changed for the better — or the report of a tutor — who sees close up how all the hard work has paid off — bring into sharp focus the urgency of assuring that the centers are successful.

"It has been a delight to put light back into the eyes of two children this past year. Where there was a forlorn, heavy look and manner of carrying themselves, with a low self-esteem, there is now a joyful, 'I know how, and I feel good about myself,' expression in their voices and countenance.

"One child who started had a hard time looking me in the eye or even

sharing about his day, now eagerly shares and has the bright look of one who carries himself with self-assurance and respect.

"This program has also been an encouragement to his family. His mom shared that he is now getting A's and enjoys school. Skill and confidence in reading has made a big difference.

"A second child entered the pro-

gram knowing only a few consonants and was failing in his classes. He found out that he could learn to read, and by January was reading 300-page books.



"His father is dyslexic and told me, with a tear in his eye, how grateful he was that his son was getting a chance that he had not.

"He said, 'If I had the help my son is getting, I know my life and marriage would have been different.' What a joy it is to make a difference."

New Calendar Supports Learning Centers



The office of the Scottish Rite Charities is launching its fall fund-raising appeal, featuring the 2006 "Inspirational Journey Calendar."

Copies, featuring moving images and quotes have arrived from the printer and are ready for distribution.

Beginning ten years ago with the 1996 edition, the calendar has served as a major component in the efforts to fund the 32° Masonic Learning Centers for Children, Inc.

The centers, located throughout the 15-state Northern Masonic Jurisdiction, provide tutoring, free of charge, to children afflicted with dyslexia.

For a decade the program has helped give children with dyslexia a brighter, more promising future. Recipients of the calendar are encouraged to make a voluntary contribution to the learning centers program. The "blue" envelope appeal, which accepts donations for the other three Scottish Rite charities, was moved to the spring to provide a better window for the fall mailing of the calendar.

Scottish Rite Masons have a proud tradition of supporting causes for the greater good and the Scottish Rite Charities office thanks everyone for their continued support.

Masonic Philosopher Wannabe

By LARRY JACOBSEN, 33°

*Seeking a Path to the
Secrets of Freemasonry*

*Reprinted with permission from
The Nebraska Mason, Fall, 2005.*

In my youth, philosophy ranked 113 on my list of 100 favorite things. After all, I was on a path to a profession (in my case, architecture), and I needed to know geometry, business, English, design, statics and strengths of materials. I had little use for the academia of philosophy.

In fact, I spent more time making fun of philosophy than I did studying it — “Philosophy is unintelligible answers to unsolvable problems” — or — “Philosophy is an orderly way of discussing subjects we don’t know anything about.”

Needless to say, I was not a good candidate for the local philosophical society. I joined Masonry while still in college. I participated in the rituals, went through the chairs, served as Master, and learned the Middle Chamber lecture.

It was all I could do to keep up with the memorization and presentation. What was lurking behind all those allegories, metaphors and symbols was a mystery to me.

We had no formal Masonic education programs back then, no dialogues about what we were really doing every week in lodge.

Don’t get me wrong — the fellowship with the brethren was great, and the training in verbal presentation skills via the rituals helped me immensely in my professional career.



ILL. LARRY JACOBSEN, 33°, is an architect and a member of the Grand Lodge of Nebraska Education Committee. He is also a past presiding officer in the Valley of Omaha.



But I had yet to receive the “whack in the side of the head” as to the big picture of Masonry.

I joined the Scottish Rite, took part in a degree, and one of my speaking parts in presenting a whole series of signs, tokens, words and symbols was concluded with the following statement: “It remains for you to learn what meanings are involved in the legend and symbolism of this degree.”

My first reaction to this was — “Well thank you very much. — You just unloaded on me the whole of ancient esoteria, and now I need to figure it out myself?”

Calm reflection being a virtue, I said to myself — “Okay, I’ll take the bait. Let’s begin to get beneath the surface and find out what this is all about.”

Thus began my Masonic education. It was around 1986, and I had already

been a Mason for 20 years. I never said I was a fast learner.

The “whack in the side of the head” was yet to come.

Either I just woke up around 1990, or there seemed to be a general reawakening about Masonry going on then — new books examining its history, relevance, symbols, and its philosophy.

Like assembling a 10,000-piece jigsaw puzzle, the connected pieces were beginning to make some sense.

I was hooked — and showing just how conniving Masonry can be, here I was, heaven forbid, studying the great philosophers — my 113th favorite topic.

But lo and behold, in the study of these philosophers, I began to see some familiar Masonic overtones:

Pythagoras — geometry
Socrates — Know thyself
Plato — Creator = Architect of the Universe
Aristotle — the soul
Aquinas — a lot of Middle Chamber concepts here

Bruno — memory
Bacon — House of Solomon
Locke — civil government
Shaftsbury — harmony
Encyclopedie — knowledge

I even determined that perhaps I was wiser than Mark Twain who said, "The Ancients stole all our ideas from us."

Masonry really is a compilation of some of the greatest ideas from the greatest philosophers in history.

However, as we all know, Masonry does not just put down the oats where the goats can get it.

Okay, maybe Albert Pike said it more eloquently; "Masonry does not inculcate her truths. She states them once and briefly; or hints them, perhaps darkly; or interposes a cloud between them and the eyes that would be dazzled by them. 'Seek and ye shall find' knowledge and the truth."

So here we are, full circle to the allegories, metaphors and symbols of Masonry — and yes, it does remain for you to learn what it means to you.

Perhaps by now I was getting closer to the philosopher's stone. If Harry Potter went after it, why not me.

By the way, this 'philosopher stone' stuff is a whole history in itself. Throughout history and up to nearly the 19th century, there were serious attempts at alchemy, an attempt to physically transmute base metals to gold.

Even Isaac Newton dabbled in this "science." Gold was the most precious of materials then, and gold was the means to everything that could be bought.

Michael Miller, in an essay titled *The Philosopher's Stone*, stated, "Their quest

for the philosopher's stone can be viewed as irrational silliness or the highest idealism.

"There was no reason to expect such a 'stone' to exist, but what alchemists hoped to gain by means of the philosopher's stone is the sum of all human ambition.

"Transmutation of metals was the least of the stone's supposed powers. Gold is a means to all wealth, but the philosopher's stone is a means to all ends, a universal means. And it's lying around for the taking. It's everywhere.

"If you have the wit merely to recognize it and learn how to use it, then all ends are within your reach.

"We needn't wonder why those who believed in the philosopher's stone devoted their lives to finding it. What higher ideal could they seek? What better end could a man set himself than a *universal means*?"



"Masonry really is a compilation of some of the greatest ideas from the greatest philosophers in history."

Pardon the digression. The philosopher's stone has, of course, no place in Masonic ritual, and I am certainly not equating this to some Harry Potter adventure. But I could not help but draw a parallel to our Masonic "secrets."

Is it possible that the secret may not be what is important, but rather the search for the secret that matters? [enter "whack in the side of the head"] And the clues in that search are all around us.

Where, you ask? Listen closely the next time a Brother speaks from the heart about our fraternity.

Read the sincerity of a fellow member as he coaches you in the ritual.

Listen and interpret what you hear the next time your lodge does the Middle Chamber lecture.


Read Victor Hugo's *Les Misérables*, listen to the *Scottish Fantasy* by Bruch, spend an evening in the mountains under full starlight, and countless other experiences that can take you on an ascent of inquiry.

Ah, the beauty of philosophy. Not because I discovered the "secret," but that I've begun to find a path to that "secret" that works for me.

Others may not have a clue what my path is, but I know they have their own path.

I can see it in their eyes and in their deeds. Good Masons do not disguise themselves easily.

Well, there you have it — confessions of a Masonic philosopher wannabe, and the only thing I can state for a fact is this — it is for each individual Mason to discover the "secret" for himself.

Through Masonic education we provide information, but what it all means is for you, and only you, to discover. Relish the journey. 

"Happy Hour at the Goose and Gridiron"

The Grand Lodge of Nebraska Education Committee has been conducting a series of Masonic education symposiums throughout the state to encourage members to learn more about the fraternity. The theme for the fall has been "Myths and Masonry."

In conjunction with the symposiums, there have also been smaller discussion groups called "Happy Hour at the Goose and Gridiron." According to Ill. Brother Jacobsen, the biggest problem has been to shut off the discussion after an hour. "Get a table of six folks talking about, say, tolerance, and the result is amazing," he says.

NOTES FROM THE **SCOTTISH RITE**[®] JOURNAL OF FREEMASONRY ✧ SOUTHERN JURISDICTION ✧ USA

Foresight Saves Priceless New Orleans Masonic Records

The foresight of our New Orleans brethren resulted in preserving some priceless Masonic records from the catastrophic destruction of Hurricane Katrina. *Étoile Polaire* (Polar Star) Lodge No. 1, originally chartered by the Grand Orient of France and still working a version of the Scottish Rite blue lodge ritual, owns most of its original records, covering some 200 years. Ill. Arturo de Hoyos, 33°, Grand Archivist and Grand Historian, visited the lodge in 2002, evaluated its archives, and offered to store the records in the climate-controlled doc-

ument vault at the House of the Temple in Washington, DC. The *Étoile Polaire* collection, weighing several hundred pounds was delivered in person by a delegation from the lodge. Through their foresight, the priceless records—an important part of America's Masonic heritage—remained safe, even though Katrina devastated their lodge building.

Ill. Arturo de Hoyos, 33°, Grand Archivist and Grand Historian, Supreme Council, 33°, S.J., USA, examines a New Orleans record book.



Norm Crosby Entertains at 2005 Biennial Session Gala Banquet

Noted Hollywood entertainer, Ill. Norm Crosby, 33°, was the Master of Ceremonies at the Gala Banquet that concluded the 2005 Biennial Session of the Southern Jurisdiction Supreme Council. Sovereign Grand Commander Ronald A. Seale, 33°, welcomed distinguished guests from around the world, including Ill. Walter E. Webber, 33°, SGC of the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction. Commander Seale extended his congratulations to the newly elected 33° members and thanked the many ladies present for their support.

After dinner, Ill. Bro. Crosby entertained everyone with his inimitable wit, unique style, and famous malapropisms. His rapier wit and smooth delivery delighted the 1,100 attendees at the banquet. Before closing, Ill. Bro. Seale announced that the next biennial session would be held in 2007 in conjunction with the NMJ. Everyone agreed that it would be a unique session of fraternal good will and started marking their calendars for the date.

A Note from Jacob's Mom & Dad

Jacob was about 2½ years old when we started to inquire about his speech. We had read that by this age he should know 150–200 words, and that two-word sentences should be emerging. We couldn't even claim ten words in his vocabulary, and the few words we counted didn't even sound like real words to anyone else.

A teacher mentioned that the San Diego Scottish Rite offered free speech therapy as a community service and suggested we look into it. This suggestion has been a Godsend to our family. After talking to a therapist, we enrolled Jacob, and the progress he has made is amazing. We truly thank the San Diego Scottish Rite Childhood Language Center for Jacob's success. Not only is Jacob now able to have a conversation, but also for the first time, he actually falls within the normal limits for speech and language of children his age. The support from the Childhood Language Center has been phenomenal.

Thank you, Scottish Rite Masons, for helping Jacob to interact with and discover the world around him.

*With Heartfelt Sincerity,
Patrick & Claudia Klopchin*



Concerned about protecting all of your records, you recently backed up everything you have on CDs. Why, you even scanned countless documents so you would have an electronic file to put on that CD.

It did take you some time to complete the task, but you finally finished it. Now, you're feeling pretty good about it. Well, I hate to pop your bubble, but maybe you shouldn't be feeling quite so good.

Here's the problem. It once was believed that CDs were virtually indestructible. Information stored on one would be available for decades, or so we were led to believe.

In reality, those CDs can be quite unpredictable. At best, their practical life may be no longer than ten years or so. For a variety of reasons, information burned on a CD may be lost in only a few years, or less. I'm aware of CDs that have failed in a matter of months. A simple little action like using a marker pen to write on a CD may shorten the disk's lifespan because the ink can be absorbed into the disk.

So, what can you do to protect your records? Here's a hint: think Dead Sea Scrolls or even more recent documents like our own Declaration of Independence.

For long-lasting records, nothing beats paper. At least, not yet. My advice is simple: if it is valuable, create a paper copy or maybe two copies. For your truly valuable items, keep one copy in a safe deposit box or a fire-proof safe.

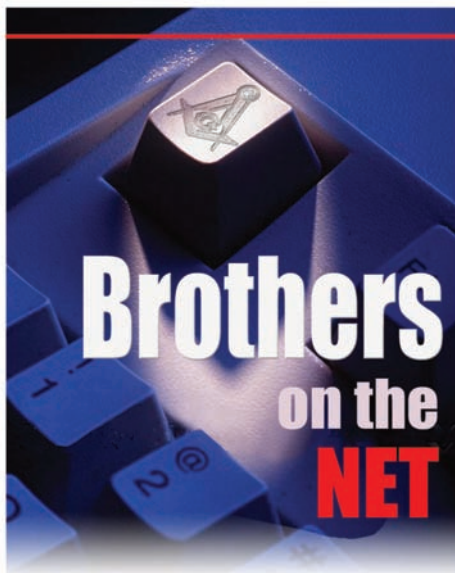
"What about my digital photographs?" you ask.

Now you know why I refuse to give up my trusty Nikon 35mm camera. A photo may fade, but it does endure. Properly stored, negatives have an exceptionally long lifespan. There is a reason why we still have photographic images of Abraham Lincoln.

If you do use a digital camera, print the "keeper" pictures on photographic-quality paper. Make at least two copies of each picture.

As for your electronic files, let's consider your storage options.

Naturally, there is the CD. The device is easy to use, quite portable and very cheap, even if it is somewhat unpredictable. When using CDs, my suggestion is to make at least two



Storage, scams and a survey

copies of every disk, never write on a disk, and store disks in the hard plastic cases. After a few years, make new copies of those disks.

Instead of using CDs for backup storage, I suggest you consider some other devices. For long-term storage, the Iomega Zip disk (www.iomega.com) is worth considering. Deemed somewhat passé by some, Zip disks offer a reasonably stable storage option. Zip disks are very portable, a snap to use, but are more costly than CDs.

A flash drive, such as the Lexar JumpDrive is an option (www.lexarmedia.com). You can use it to store, transfer and carry any type of electronic data. The JumpDrive can be used with both Windows and Mac machines. There is no need to install drivers. Simply plug it into a USB port and you're good to go. You can buy one for \$30 to \$80, depending on the size of the device's memory.

Another option is to purchase an auxiliary hard drive for your computer. Prices for these units have come down dramatically, meaning that you can buy one for as little as \$99.

The auxiliary hard drive offers a high degree of stability. Stored data should be available for a long time. Auxiliary hard drives are available at electronics stores and from a number of online retailers.

However, allow me to reiterate: there yet is no substitute for paper files. For really valuable information, keep two paper files.

When you are done pondering the storage issue, you might take a moment to arm yourself against online scams.

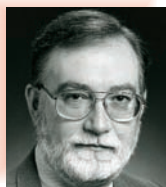
Disasters bring out both the best and worst in people. We need look no further than Hurricane Katrina for validation of that statement.

Internet scams were among the many problems spawned by the gigantic storm. One of the most insidious claimed to be soliciting donations for the Salvation Army. No doubt, it snared a lot of victims.

Apparently encouraged by the success of the Katrina scams, con artists are peppering the Internet with all sorts of sophisticated appeals designed to separate you from your money.

My advice is rather simple — ignore any and all e-mail appeals for money.

Finally, I want to invite you to participate in a survey on computers and the Internet. To receive a copy of the survey, just send an e-mail to me at [<studebaker55@casscomm.com>](mailto:studebaker55@casscomm.com).



Leigh E. Morris, 33°, works in corporate communications for a major utility company. He is a member of the Valley of Milwaukee and Valley of Springfield, Ill.

CHARITIES

Foundation Grant-Seeking Vital to Growth

As the present fiscal year draws to a close, part of my job is to summarize the income that Scottish Rite Charities, and particularly our **32° Masonic Learning Centers for Children, Inc.**, have earned from grant awards in 2004-05. The learning centers are more successful than ever at delivering their free services, and as they enter their second decade, they need the support of Scottish Rite Masons more than ever. That, of course, includes the many individual contributors who give generous donations throughout the year, and who have always been the backbone of our dyslexia program.

It also includes the numerous Scottish Rite grant-making organizations that supported the learning centers in 2004-05. At last count, Scottish Rite and other Masonic charitable organizations accounted for more than \$160,000 last year. That would be about \$3,000 for every learning center in operation, if it were evenly distributed.

At the same time, the centers need non-Masonic financial support — community support — more than ever. A big part of that category is grant support, too, starting with grants from local charitable organizations.

As foundation awards make up an increasingly important part of our annual support, it has become critical for our Valley volunteers, particularly our learning center boards of governors and their allies, to sharpen their grant-seeking skills and engage prospective local organizations. Even those with proven individual fund-raising abilities are discovering that grant-seeking is something of a specialty.

At last count, our **32° Masonic Learning Centers for Children, Inc.**, received \$314,000 in grant support over the past eleven months. If you consider that this amount is roughly the same as the amount of individual Masons' donations garnered by

our annual "blue" envelope appeal, you can see that grant support now represents a healthy slice of the learning centers' pie chart.

That figure includes all public and private-sector grantmakers — nonprofit charities, company foundations and employee giving programs, and many non-fraternal entities as well as the fraternal grantmakers mentioned above. (So many types of charitable organizations overlap nowadays that the preferred term is "grant-makers," a more generic word than "foundations.")

I am convinced that grant-seeking is one of the strategic keys to the survival, health and growth of the learning centers program. That is because, in my experience, grant-seeking on behalf of a sorely needed community-healing service such as dyslexia remediation amounts to community-building. Community-building has always been the keystone of Masonic service to society.

In other words, grant-seeking is a Masonic volunteer's opportunity for dialogue with his peers among the leaders of his community. Grant-makers, whether they are private foundations, community foundations, banks, local companies or local government, view their mission as community-strengthening — not just impersonally handing over "free money," but investing in a local non-profit project in the expectation that it will improve life in the community.

What an opportunity for the learning centers this is. Ten years of success, objective data, and many whole-hearted parent and community testimonials will prove to almost any grant-maker that a 32° Masonic Learning Center for Children will meet that expectation — it's a sure investment.

This year, learning center boards are being asked to raise a part of their own operating budgets and to form grants committees. This is a timely and important step. I've spoken with a number of activist board members who are in the vanguard of this critical community-building process, and, in future columns, I expect to share their experience and insights with you.



Steve Pekock, 32°
Director of Development



The Stamp Act



Uruguay honored the Freemasons with the release of a postal issue. This souvenir sheet was issued on Oct. 29, 2003, to commemorate the foundation of Freemasonry within that country in 1856.



When **Matthew Flinders** was a prisoner of war in July 1807 at Mocha, Mauritius, he recorded in his diary "Today we had the company of M.M. Curtut and Pepin, who came to celebrate tomorrow, the fete of St. John at the Freemasons Lodge established here. My friend, Mr. Labauve prepared himself to enter into the society Sunday 19. Our company went to the lodge early to initiate their neophyte..." Further substantiating information has not yet been found.



Born March 16, 1774, at Donington, Lincolnshire, England, he was a self-educated navigator. He entered the Naval Service in 1789 at the age of 15 and served as midshipman on the "Providence"

under Capt. Bligh from 1791-93. He returned to England in 1801. He later sailed to investigate the coastline of Australia. On his return home, he experienced two mishaps, and ended up in Mauritius, then a possession of France which was at war with England. He was imprisoned for nine years as a spy and, broken in health, was released in 1810. He died in London July 19, 1814. He is pictured on several Australian stamps including this one issued in 1980 for Australia Day.



Francisco de Miranda y Rodriguez was born in Caracas, Venezuela, in 1750. He entered the Spanish army in which he was decorated for service in Africa and attained the rank of colonel. In 1780, he was one of the foreign officers who served under George Washington in the American Revolution. He later served under Catherine II in Russia and in the French Revolutionary Army rising to the rank of

field marshal. He later went to Venezuela with Simon Bolivar and was one of the signers of the Declaration in 1812. As Generalissimo, he was defeated in battle and taken prisoner to the La Carraca Prison in Cadiz, where he died in 1816.

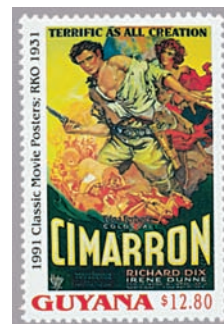
Bro. Miranda was proposed to be a Mason by the Marquis de Lafayette in 1796. He founded the first Lautaro Lodge, the Gran



Reunion Americana, in London in 1801. In 1806, he formed another Lautaro Lodge in Cadiz, Venezuela, as well as another Lodge under the Grand Lodge of England. In 1807, he constituted a "Gran Oriente" composed of three Lodges. He initiated Bro. Simon Bolivar in the Lautaro Lodge. Bro. Miranda is pictured on several stamps of Venezuela including this issue of 1950 to commemorate the centenary of his birth.



A stamp issued by Guyana in March 1992 pictures a movie poster which adver-



Robert A. Domingue is secretary for St. Matthew's Lodge, Andover, MA, and editor of *The Philatelic Freemason*.

tises one of **Richard Dix's** movies, "Cimarron." He was a member of Harry S. Orme Lodge No. 458, California.

Born Ernest Carlton Brimmer in St. Paul, MN, on July 18, 1893, he studied to be a surgeon but was attracted to acting while in college. He dropped out after one year, got a job at a bank and took up with a local stock company, which led to acting work in New York City. He moved to Hollywood where he began a successful career in Western movies. His best-remembered early role was in Cecil B. Demille's silent version of "The Ten Commandments." He was nominated for Oscars and did win one for his role in "Cimarron." He retired from acting in 1947 and died two years later on Sept. 20, 1949.



France commemorated the Centenary of the Grande Loge of France, one of the several Grand Lodge bodies within France, on Nov. 5, 1994, with the release of a



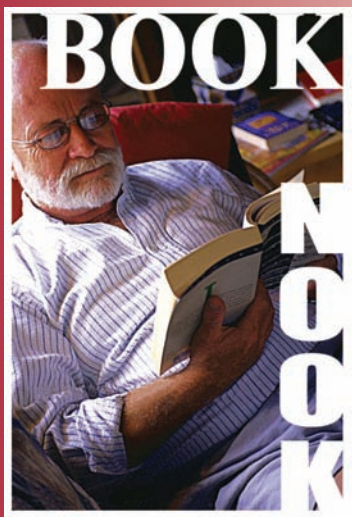
postage stamp.



Correction

Bro. Lincoln Borglum received his degrees in Battle River Lodge No. 992, Hermos, SD, not North Dakota, as reported in the previous column of "The Stamp Act."





Reviewed by Thomas W. Jackson, 33°

Secret Societies of America's Elite

by Steven Sora. Published in 2003 by Destiny Books, One Park Street, Rochester, VT 05767. \$20.

When I picked up this book, the name of the author sounded familiar, and when reading it, I found the writing style likewise familiar. When finished, I checked past articles and found that I had reviewed Sora's first book, *The Lost Treasure of the Knights Templar*. I did not give that book a glowing review, and I give this one even less so. He also wrote *Solving the Oak Island Mystery*. I don't know that I have ever read works by an historian with a more jaded view of history.

I indicated in the first review that the author was sadly lacking in knowledge of the craft and that the book was the most anti-Masonic of any non-anti-Masonic books I had read. He uses much of *Secret Societies of America's Elite* to show Freemasonry as the glue that binds different men together in a common purpose. Indeed it does, but to Sora, most of it was for evil purpose.

In the introduction he states, "Unfortunately the slave trading industry was also furthered by Masonic groups," "A conspiracy organized by members of the quasi-Masonic Knights of the Golden Circle to kill President Lincoln sought to nullify the Emancipation Proclamation . . .," and he calls the Ku Klux Klan, "another Masonic group of knights." All this before page five.

Although he does credit the craft with a few good contributions to society, if I did not know Freemasonry and read this book, I would look upon it as the major influence in slave trading, drug smuggling, piracy and much else that might have been undesirable in early America and the world.

Most of these undesirable attributes he applies to the craft via innuendo and implication, not fact. In his discussion of the Kennedy assassination, for example, he points out that Earl Warren of the Warren commission was a 33° Mason, not accusing but implying possibilities. This style permeates his writing. He calls Thomas Cushing, "a one-man Masonic conspiracy," and in discussing the death of President Harrison, he alludes to arsenic poisoning and points out that both attending physicians were trained by a Mason and the son of one was a friend of Benedict Arnold.

He has no problem in stating as fact what other historians regard as possibilities or probabilities. For example, he states that William Morgan was taken by force to a Masonic lodge where he was murdered. No one knows for sure what happened to Morgan and no historian writes it as fact. He also refers to the Freemasons as "the surviving ex-Templars." Again, I know of no other historian making that claim as fact.

He dissects many of the more famous and wealthy families from early America emphasizing characteristics and actions we would regard as unacceptable motives today and pointing out any Masonic relationship they might have had. He carries his critical analysis into the modern world and organizations he terms as quasi-Masonic, such as the "Skull and Bones" society at Yale University, and members such as the Bushes and Cheney.

There are numerous problems in the text that could be considered either errors or falsehoods, depending upon

whether he is ignorant or devious. For example, he says that a Masonic concept is "One God over all gods." He also states that there are eight points on a Masonic cross and eight original Templar Knights. He may be referring to the Maltese cross, but that is not a "Masonic cross," and any knowledgeable historian should know that there were nine original Templar Knights. That is fact. He also states that a Mason-owned ship named the *Jean Baptiste* was named for "Masonry's greatest saint." That is probably news to all Freemasons.

There is no doubt that some of what Sora writes is or may be true but I suspect that any good historian could write a book based solely upon the inaccuracies and errors found in this volume.

Even if the book contained nothing concerning Freemasonry it would not be a good book. Historians should be writing about facts of history not rewriting history by constructing it via implication and innuendo. I do not know his background, but his writing shows deficiency in fact. I do not think the book is worth your effort.



Understanding Manhood in America: Freemasonry's Enduring Path to the Mature Masculine

by Robert G. Davis. Published in 2005 by Anchor Communications LLC, Lancaster, VA 22503. \$19.95.

I have been friends with the author of this text for many years and have regarded him as one of a handful of the more astute scholars of Freemasonry in North America. *Understanding Manhood in America* simply reinforces that judgment. He is currently the Secretary of the Valley of Guthrie, OK, and serves on a number of steering committees for analyzing, advising, and guiding the progression of North American Freemasonry.

This is not a book about Freemasonry, although he uses the craft as a comparative example for the ongoing changes that have taken place in the character of masculinity in America and cites it as possessing a character that has been and could be the guiding force in reclaiming the rightful place of the male in our society. Even though he uses this character throughout the book, only the last chapter, "Freemasonry's Timeless Role: Recapturing the Lost Word in Manhood," deals specifically with the craft.

Also included are three appendices. The first is a listing of American fraternal institutions with their date of origin that should be helpful in understanding just how many fraternal bodies existed but no longer do. The second gives a brief explanation of the system of degrees and presents those from the first three of the blue lodge through the 29 of the Scottish Rite, conveying the message they express. The third lists the 103 virtues taught in these degrees.

Davis examines the changing roles that the male has assumed in a corresponding changing society, the causes for these role changes, and their impact on the very definition of manhood. Even though we may have been aware of the role changes, most of us probably have given little thought to what caused them or understand the magnitude of the impact they created in the development of our society. I know I have failed, even though I was aware of the changes of the male position in the workplace, to comprehend the significance of how much it affects our total society. He discusses the needs and causes that resulted in the changes of the image and function of male organizations from the ritual-driven to civic and social. This book has caused me to take a much broader view of what these changing roles mean to American society.

He makes excellent analyses of how more mundane influences, such as change in music style, cause cataclysmic change over time in entire life style.

Where Freemasonry comes into play is through the moral virtues and ethical lessons it teaches and, through these lessons, imparts to society. He emphasizes the significance Freemasonry and all other fraternal organizations have had on the teaching of ethics to men in our society. He also points out, however, that

with the development of modern technology public exposure to the ancient teachings of our craft must change the way we will operate in the new society.

Davis provides an excellent view of how Freemasonry, as well as society, has been affected by this ongoing change in the "mature masculine" image. He analyzes well the need to re-establish a more dominate position if we are to play a vital role in the lives of future generations.

This is a book that will serve as an awakening for many readers who have not seen the obvious in the changing of male value in society. I recommend it.

reviewersnote

Several issues ago I reviewed two of Dan Brown's best sellers, *The Da Vinci Code* and *Angels & Demons*. Few books in history have elicited a greater reaction or spawned a greater number of books in response. This is especially true of *The Da Vinci Code*. The majority of these books have been written to debate what Dan Brown has written.

I have read two of the books, *Cracking the Da Vinci Code*, and *Breaking the Da Vinci Code*. The first is an "unauthorized guide to the facts." It is written by Simon Cox who is editor-in-chief of *Phenomena*, a magazine devoted to "challenging dogmas, orthodoxies and half-truths," and who is currently making a TV documentary based upon this subject.

It is a book that I think you would find valuable in understanding much of Dan Brown's references, as it separates fact from fiction. It is significant that what he relates are the facts behind the fiction. Note that it is fiction.

The second book is written by Darrell L. Bock, Ph.D., a research professor of New Testament studies at Dallas Theological Seminary. He has made an excellent effort in using the Scriptures to debate the propositions of Dan Brown. Although I have not read the other books written to challenge Brown, I would assume that those written by clergy would follow in the same vein.

The difficulty encountered in this type of debate is that it deals with interpretation and faith, as opposed to historical data.

I suspect that the need is there to respond, but I found nothing in Brown's books that in any way challenged my faith. I accepted from the beginning that they are — and as emphasized by Cox — pure and simple fiction, and I read them as stimulating mystery novels. For those needing a reenforcement of faith that might have been eroded by *The Da Vinci Code*, this book may be valuable to you. If you read Brown's book as a fictional mystery novel, it would probably be of some value to understand the reaction to it.

Dan Brown is completing another book to be released soon. *The Solomon Key* is centered on Washington, DC, and is believed to make reference to Masonic sites. It also is a work of fiction.

THOMAS W. JACKSON, 33°, was formerly Grand Secretary for the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania. He is Executive Secretary for the World Conference of Masonic Grand Lodges and the book reviewer for *The Northern Light*.

Health Wise

ideas
for
health
and
fitness



Great Stuff in Apples

Researchers say apples really do deserve their reputation for keeping the doctor away. They contain powerful antioxidants including quercetin, catechin, and epicatechin.

Studies reported in *Nutrition Journal* show that apples are associated with a reduced risk of many chronic conditions including cardiovascular disease, type 2 diabetes, cancer, and asthma.

Vitamins Can Reduce Alzheimer's Risk

The Alzheimer's Association of Chicago reports that taking vitamins C and E may reduce your risk of Alzheimer's disease. It is thought that these antioxidants absorb damaging free radicals in the brain and prevent cell damage.

A study by Johns Hopkins shows that people taking both C and E vitamins were 64 percent less likely to have developed the disease four years later.

Ask your doctor about recommended dosages.

Don't Wash Meat and Poultry

New guidelines by the U.S. Department of Agriculture discourage washing of meats and poultry before cooking.

The risk of cross-contamination from handling the food as it is washed outweighs any benefits. Bacteria in raw meat and poultry can be spread to other foods, utensils, and surfaces.

Bacteria on the food are destroyed by cooking to a temperature of 160 degrees Fahrenheit.



Few Have Healthy Lifestyle

Everyone knows what a healthy lifestyle is but few people have one. A new study shows that only three percent of Americans don't smoke, eat five servings of fruits and vegetables daily, exercise regularly, and maintain a healthy body weight.

The Michigan State University study shows that 72 percent don't smoke, 40 percent maintain a healthy weight, 23 percent said they eat five servings of fruits and vegetables, and 22 percent said they exercise five times a week.

Healthy Brains

Regular exercise has long been considered helpful in preventing dementia. Now a report in the *American Journal of Epidemiology* says that studies show that exercise variety matters more than intensity. Variety makes the brain work more, so it stays healthier.

Whooping Cough Shots

The FDA has approved a second booster shot for the immunization against whooping cough. Cases among adolescents and adults have increased dramatically. Babies and young children are protected by early vaccination, but the immunization wears off.

Older Smokers Risk AMD

A British study found that older smokers were twice as likely to suffer age-related macular degeneration (AMD) as non-smokers. AMD blurs the central vision by affecting the macula. AMD is the leading cause of blindness in older adults, according to *Tufts University Health and Nutrition Letter*.

Drink Milk, Lose Weight

A dairy-rich diet combined with calorie control can almost double body-fat reduction and weight loss. It also helps prevent weight gain, says researcher Michael Zemel of the University of Tennessee.

Zemel says in *Health* magazine that the calcitriol in dairy products helps conserve calcium for stronger bones while telling fat cells to convert less sugar to fat and burn more body fat.

"Lazy Eye" Test

Members of the American Optometric Association offer a free test for amblyopia for babies ages six months to a year. To find an optometrist in your area, visit www.infantsee.org.

Grand Lodge of Maine establishes

‘Masonic College’



The Grand Lodge of Maine has launched a new educational program that will provide members with a better understanding of the Masonic fraternity. The Maine Masonic College was officially inaugurated in mid-October during a ceremony in the library at the University of Southern Maine at Portland.

In the summer of 2004, M.W. Claire V. Tusch, 32°, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Maine, commissioned Past Grand Master Walter M. Macdougall, 33°, to establish a committee to design programs of Masonic education. The committee proposed a “Masonic College” that would appeal to all Freemasons in the state who wanted to further their understanding of the many lessons taught in the Masonic journey.

In May the Grand Lodge endorsed the concept of the college as “a provider of opportunities for the further enlightenment of the craft.”

The mission is straightforward: “To create an educational environment for the purpose of inspiring the members of the craft to explore the nature and purpose of Freemasonry which will lead to a deeper self-understanding of the founding principles, tenets and lessons of morality.”

At the October 15 ceremony, the Grand Master installed the officers of the college and presented a charter to George M.A. Macdougall, 32°, chairman of the board of regents. Past Grand Master Wayne T. Adams, 33°, offered remarks on the importance of education in Masonry.

The keynote speaker was Dr. Joseph S. Wood, provost and vice president of the University of Southern Maine.

The courses will take place on Saturdays at various locations throughout the state.

Six courses have been scheduled for 2006. While some will be restricted to Masons, the majority will be open to the general public. The courses will be limited to 20 participants.

One member of the board of regents commented, “With the surge of young men whom I see joining Masonry these days, I am convinced that we need to find some way of grabbing their fresh interest in the brotherhood and showing them ways to root around in all of the available material

meaning of the fraternity.”

The initial course will be offered in February. Led by Dr. Eric Kuntz, 32°, a psychiatrist and District Deputy Grand Master, the course will discuss “Symbols: Who Needs Them?”

The website for the Masonic Masonic College is

2006 COURSE SCHEDULE

“Symbols: Who Needs Them?” Eric Kuntz, M.D., psychiatrist, DDGM, February

“Fraternal Symbols, Ancient Myths, Initiation Rites and Freemasonry,” Charles Plummer, Ph.D., college instructor, PSGW, March

“The Philosophical Conversation and Freemasonry,” Walter Macdougall, Ph.D., Educator, PGM, April

“An In-Depth Study of the Tenets of Freemasonry and the Four Cardinal Virtues,” Charles Plummer, Ph.D., Summer

“Development of Masonic Ritual, 1390-1843,” Christian Ratliff, Past Master, lodge Secretary, Fall

“The Four Cardinal Virtues,” Reginald Wing, PJGW, Fall

FUTURE COURSES UNDER CONSIDERATION

Anti-Masonry

The Tenets of Freemasonry

Masonic Music

The 7 Basic Plots in Literature — including the Legend of Freemasonry

Public Speaking/Speech Communications

Argumentation and Debate

Ethical Awareness

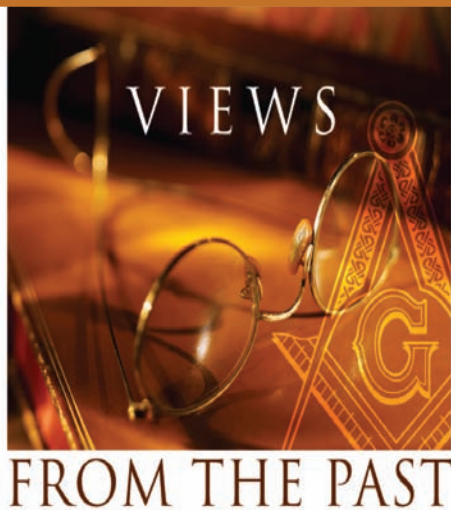
Consumer Fraud

Introduction to Computers

Use of the Internet for Masonic Information

Is Freemasonry a Religion?

Mormonism and Freemasonry



Western Pluck

We sincerely admire the pluck, determination and unconquerable spirit of the West, with which our admirable contemporary, *The Trestle Board*, emerges from the disaster which engulfed San Francisco. The printing establishment on whose presses *The Trestle Board* was run is an utter ruin. Its six-story brick building, containing *The Trestle Board* office went down like a house of cards. *The Trestle Board* publishers suffered great loss on account of the magnificent "Souvenir Shrine" issue, commemorative of the Imperial Council meeting which was to have been held in Los Angeles. This edition was on the press at the time of the earthquake. The subscription list and accounts of the magazine were, however, saved, and, with this assistance, the publishers are able to proceed with collection of arrearages on subscriptions. They are thus not entirely destitute, but they need and deserve the hearty cooperation of every subscriber in placing the magazine on its feet again. We certainly trust that its friends will rally to its support and show their appreciation of its praiseworthy perseverance in the face of such disheartening misfortune.

— John S. Boyd,
The Tyler-Keystone,
Philadelphia, September, 1906

Whatever Happened to the Written Word

Scattered throughout the western plains of the United States, from Wyoming's Bighorn mountains northward and into Saskatchewan, Canada, are huge, elaborate patterns traced out in stone. Some were built 5,000 years ago — when the Egyptian pyramids were under construction — and others were laid out as recently as 1,700 years ago.

Their origin and use were long a mystery. Of such is the substance of legends — some of which even attributed these stone patterns to pre-Columbian members of the Masonic lodge.

Evidence now suggests that these "medicine wheels" — as they came to be known — were a primitive but accurate means for marking the summer solstice: the longest day.

Yet, in the recorded history of the American Indian, in this century and the last, there is no mention of astronomical uses ever having been made of the skies.

From the time of Coronado to that of Lewis and Clark, Indian history is devoid of an explanation for these stone formations. But they assuredly exist. They predate recorded history and we know how they were used.

These rock formations are all relics of an Indian culture and heritage long eclipsed and forgotten because, quite simply, there is no written language.

This, perhaps, is a forceful reminder that learning, without the benefit of written words, is indeed a precarious, fragile and fleeting thing. In a few hundred years, knowledge without the written word can be forever lost.

There is a more contemporary parallel to this phenomenon, and it is found in the early days of Freemasonry.

Worshipful Brother Harry Carr, of the Grand Lodge of England, in his eloquent essay "Six Hundred Years of Craft Ritual," outlines the futility of tracing the early history of Freemasonry without adequate written records.

Bro. Carr readily admits to the single flaw in his lecture: namely, that he lacks the corroborating exhibit to seal

his conclusions — the verifiable, indelible written word.

He is 99 percent certain as to Masonic origin but — like a lawyer going into court — he is armed with circumstantial evidence. He does not have that scrap of paper which would seal his case.

Thus, early Masonic learning, not preserved by the written word, has — like the Master's word — been forever lost.

And this brings us to the task at hand for those who profess interest in Masonic education.

Our nation at this very moment is precariously close to becoming a nation of functional illiterates: people who have completed the educational requirements of our society but who cannot read or write well enough to function efficiently.

This not only strikes at the very heart of our democracy, but it poses a mind-boggling problem for those involved in education, be it public education or — for our purposes — Masonic education.

How do we impart our traditions, and history — and yes, our ritual — to men who can see but cannot understand, who perhaps can write but cannot comprehend?

— Thomas C. Warden,
The Short Talk Bulletin,
August, 1978



MASONS and CHARITY

The amount dispensed in charity by Masonic bodies all over the world will never be known. Our principles forbid us to speak of it, much less to boast of or publish it.

Just as the rays of the sun fall silently upon the earth, every day warming it into new life, so Masonic charity comes to the distressed, in the beginning unheralded, and afterwards unsung. We therefore have nothing to say respecting the noblest and most characteristic gifts of the craft.

But the purposes of Masonry have been deemed not entirely fulfilled by the dispensing of charity through the ordinary channels of fraternal benevolence; hence public Masonic charities

have been established in all civilized countries, with a view to providing permanent homes for aged and infirm needy brethren and their destitute widows and orphans, and likewise to educate free of charge the promising sons and daughters of indigent Master Masons.

The guard of secrecy cannot be thrown around such efforts, and it has not been attempted. We may therefore speak freely, although not boastfully, of institutions of this character, since they, like our constitutions, laws, and landmarks, are all open to public observation, and are no part of the secrets of Masonry.

— W. J. Chaplin,
The Michigan Freemason, 1876

A NEW YEAR

Recently the heads of the Masonic and affiliated bodies in Connecticut met at the Masonic Home in Wallingford, the outcome of which was the formation of the Connecticut Masonic Conference.

Mutually faced with declining attendance, decreasing numbers of petitions for membership and other common problems, the several Brothers present spoke briefly and pithily concerning their feelings about these problems.

Determination was expressed to endeavor to remedy the difficulties insofar as it is possible to do so by concerted action on the part of those who are devoted to Freemasonry.

But the utmost exertions of a few can be of little avail unless the whole body of Masons cooperates in the effort to improve our fraternity.

A new year is about to begin, a year which is fraught with all kinds of potentialities. Each new year recently has seen remarkable advances made in many fields of human endeavor. Certainly Masonry, too, should be making progress. The current interest in education by mankind at large should be reflected by a kindred desire for Masonic culture, information and education on the part of Masons everywhere.

There is evidence, as indicated by the finding of Grand Lodge committees over the past few years, that the craft is definitely interested in such a program of Masonic culture. It remains in the year that lies ahead for the Masters or culture committeemen of the constituent lodges to supply the means, whereby the interest is satisfied.

In order that they may do so the Grand Lodge committee on Masonic culture is preparing to issue material which will meet the need.

Among the efforts of the Connecticut Masonic Conference will be that of assisting the Grand Lodge committee and similar committees in the other bodies wherever they exist to promulgate Masonic culture, information and education.

Yet, as noted above, the outcome of any such program is up to the individual Brother.

Among your New Year resolutions, make one which includes a determination to attend your lodge and to increase your Masonic knowledge in the year that lies ahead.

— Rev. Russell H. Milnes,
Connecticut Square and Compasses,
January, 1961

Quick Quotes

You miss 100 percent of the shots you never take.

— Wayne Gretzky

The person who says it cannot be done should not interrupt the person doing it.

— Chinese Proverb

I would rather be the man who bought the Brooklyn Bridge than the man who sold it.

— Will Rogers

Somebody should tell us right at the start of our lives that we are dying. Then we might live life to the limit every minute of the day.

— Michael Landon

The first step toward the solution to any problem is optimism.

— John Baines

Don't judge each day by the harvest you reap, but by the seeds you plant.

— Robert Louis Stevenson

When you get to the end of your rope, tie a knot and hang on.

— Franklin D. Roosevelt

Stand up to your obstacles and do something about them. You will find that they haven't half the strength you think they have.

— Norman Vincent Peale

Feeling gratitude and not expressing it is like wrapping a present and not giving it.

— William Arthur Ward

If you find a path with no obstacles, it probably doesn't lead anywhere.

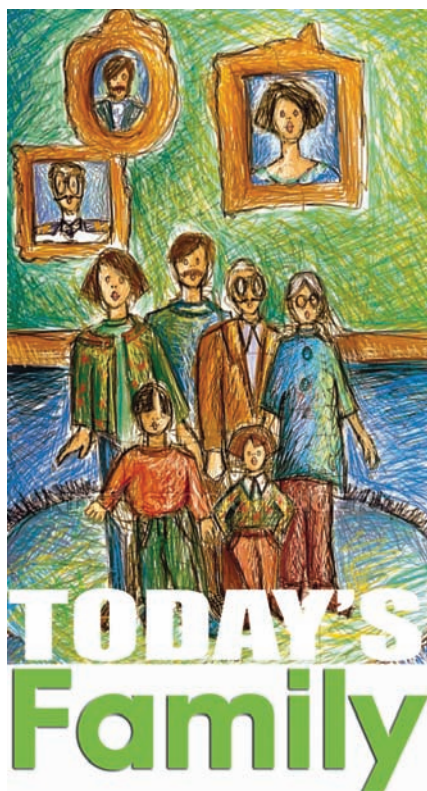
— Jean Jacques Rousseau

I do not fear computers. I fear the lack of them.

— Isaac Asimov

Our greatest glory is not in never failing, but in rising every time we fall.

— Confucius



Rockers Still Rock

One top furniture designer is wondering why he sees so few rocking chairs in homes today. Bill Stumpf, a designer of ergonomically-friendly office chairs, says a rocker has great ergonomics. It provides excellent lumbar support, while taking the weight off the base of your spine.

If you have a place to put your feet up, and your rocker seat is padded, the comfort is similar to that of a big recliner. It is healthier because the slight movement produced when you rock helps move blood from your legs back to your torso.

Avoid Toddler Tantrums

Harvey Karp, author of *The Happiest Toddler on the Block*, says:

If you know your child is ill-tempered when a nap is missed or hunger sets in, avoid those situations.

Communicate with short, repetitive phrases.

Give short spurts of attention. If a task will take 40 minutes, stop at 20 minutes to play with your child.

Let your toddler hear you say flattering things to others about him.

Have your tot show you how to do something. She'll feel good about it.

New Countertops First

The National Association of Realtors says money spent for a kitchen updating is usually recouped when a house is sold. It's like money in the bank.

They recommend starting with an upgrade of countertops. Real estate agents and remodelers say owners in many types of homes are now using high-quality materials once used only in expensive houses.

Saving Steps

In most households, family members are asked to put their shoes, hats, backpacks and the like into the bedroom. The same holds true for materials used in homework or other projects, which have a habit of remaining on the dining room table.

Unfortunately these things do not consistently get put away. The answer could lie in keeping things where they are used. Debbie Williams, author of *Home Management 101*, suggests a colored open tub for each person by the door. For project material, a drawer could be allocated near where they are commonly left.

Many Schools Shift to K-8 Model

A growing body of evidence shows that preteen students do better when they can remain in their familiar elementary school longer. They get better grades and have fewer disciplinary

problems than their middle school peers. As a result, some school systems are starting to do away with middle schools and are increasing the number of schools that continue to eighth grade.

The movement began with a few large districts, such as Cincinnati and Orange County, CA, and has spread to smaller communities. The superintendent in the Boston suburb of Everett was dissatisfied with a lack of progress and increasing discipline issues in his junior high schools, and has made the switch.

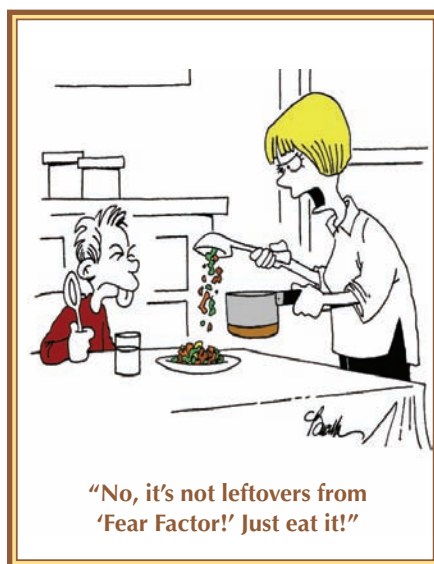
Top Ten Home Trends

According to a National Association of Home Builders survey, house buyers today want:

1. Spacious garages that may include a workshop.
2. Extensive wiring for high-tech entertainment and computer networks.
3. Unique kitchens with a walk-in pantry.
4. Traditional exteriors based on early American and European architectural styles.
5. No living room.
6. Lower ceilings.
7. Activity rooms, including home offices, dens, exercise rooms, game rooms, and home theaters.
8. Fewer open floor plans.
9. Storage rooms, such as walk-in attics and butler's pantries.
10. Planning for the future. To stay in a home later in life, many want main-floor master suites, natural light, wide hallways, and walk-in shower stalls.

Clutter Adds Stress

If you find your house is a stressful maze of stuff, taking action is a must. Organizing pro Donna Smallin, author of *Unclutter Your Home*, says start by vowing to spend 20 to 30 minutes a day decluttering. Tackle one room at a time and decide what you can do without. Store keepers where you can use them. Put items on the kitchen counter that you use every day. Buy a basket for each room to store related items, and give away unneeded things to friends or charity.



More than Just Books . . .

Van Gorden-Williams Library at the National Heritage Museum

Making Good Libraries Better *The Quest and History of the Masonic Library Museum Association*

Like the individual lodges and Valleys they serve, Masonic libraries cannot operate in a vacuum. By joining together, these institutions are able to tap into the resources offered by the others, and these keepers of fraternal history and archives each become stronger and more relevant.

In late October 1992 eight Masonic librarians from around the country met in Washington, DC, at the House of the Temple and formed the "October Group" since they planned to meet annually in October.

In 1995 in Iowa, The Masonic Library and Museum Association (MLMA) was founded as an outgrowth of the October Group. Those who attended that first full conference represented 15 organizations from across the U.S.A., Canada, and also included one representative from England. Today, MLMA has grown to 85 members, which includes 44 institutions — mostly representatives from state Grand Lodge libraries and both the Southern and Northern Jurisdictions. Membership also extends internationally, including Australia, Germany, Belgium and the United Kingdom.

Linking together the MLMA is an Internet e-mail group. Members assist each other with reference questions as well as with help locating Masonic and fraternal resources in the marketplace via the Web. From the Van Gorden-Williams Library in Lexington, MA, duplicate books have been sent to smaller libraries. Books, journals and other items missing from its own collection have also been received.

Conferences are hosted every year in a different state. Association business is discussed and attendees often make presentations on activities at their own library/museum. Participants also peruse each other's libraries and have the opportunity to visit other cultural resources nearby. The National Heritage Museum and

the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts plan to jointly host the October 2006 conference.

Because of budgetary cuts in the libraries, many Grand Lodge volunteer librarians are not able to attend conferences, and, with tight budgets, there is little available for preserving Masonic materials. Many of the Masonic resources are rare and not held in public or academic libraries or archives. Money is also needed to pay for the conservation of materials so that the resources can be salvaged.



MLMA is an important key to making the story of Freemasonry accessible to Masonic researchers. One way to accomplish this task is to increase access through the Web. Having holdings listed online together in a united online catalog would make it easier for researchers to locate the resources that they need. For a united catalog to be created, Masons need to support their libraries.

Web accessible databases can be gateways to visitors of the libraries. By making the materials accessible, the story of Freemasonry can reach a greater audience. More people can learn about the work that Masons have carried on for centuries to help good men become better, to assist in building communities, and helping the sick, elderly, and needy. Visitors

and researchers may even decide to join the organization because of what they have read.

Ten years after the founding of MLMA the association is striving to remain relevant. This fall in Little Rock the group will reevaluate the way it communicates, how to continue outreach to Masonic libraries and researchers, and how the organization can progress. MLMA was formed with the mission "to assist and support, through education, facilitation of communication, coordination of effort, and other means, those individuals charged with the collection, management, and preservation of the Masonic heritage." Conventional library and museum standards still need to be set and then followed so that resources are appropriately processed and cared for.

You can help MLMA with this quest. Your Masonic books, documents and artifacts are important to save. Urge your Grand Lodge officers to support your library/museum. Make sure that there are adequate, sturdy bookshelves and storage cases, located in dry, sheltered areas of the building where items will not be over-exposed to harmful light, draft, or too much humidity. Assist your librarian, if you can, with processing books and objects, develop Masonic focused reading groups, and encourage your research societies to meet in the library. Above all, use the resources so that Grand Lodge officers realize that supporting the library is important and should be a priority.

Finally, let Masonic librarians know if there is a way we can help your lodge. Some examples include providing research assistance for Entered Apprentices, learning about Freemasonry or helping your lodge to locate professional conservators to salvage fragile documents. MLMA is a resource. Please ask us. The MLMA website is: www.bessel.org/mlma.

READERS



RESPOND

Anti-Masonic Literature

I just finished reading the August issue of *The Northern Light*. In it I was surprised to find as part of the anti-Masonic literature a piece about the *New England Anti-Masonic Almanac*. Recently I was looking through some old literature and records of my lodge and came across a copy of one dated 1832. It made for some interesting reading.

Robert G. Cotton, 32°
Norway, ME

A Hobo Responds

[In reference to "Riding the Rails" (Aug. 2005)]

Back in 1933 I graduated from high school. I left my hometown in June 1933 and hitchhiked to Chicago to go

to the World's Fair. While at Chicago I met a teenaged hobo and made friends with him.

I joined the original "Hobo Nickel Society" and traveled with him riding trains for about six months. He showed me how to hop a train and gave me instructions for safety. I stayed at railroad jungle camps and went west to California.

Bro. Newell A. Shireman, 32°
Middletown, PA

Cy Was Third

In the article "Mason on the Mound" (May 2005) it states that Cy Young became the first pitcher to be inducted in the Baseball Hall of Fame. Christy Matthewson and Walter Johnson were the first two pitchers elected in 1936, the first year of election. Cy Young was elected in 1937, the second year of voting.

David L. Klees
Harrisburg, PA

Editor's note: The reader is correct. It was intended for the line to read, "among the first to be inducted."

We welcome letters from our readers in response to articles appearing in *The Northern Light* and will reprint them as space permits. Letters must be signed, should be brief, and are subject to editing.

On the Lighter Side

Truths about pets:

- Buy a dog a toy and it will play with it forever. Buy a cat a toy and it will play with the wrapper.
- Your pets instinctively predict the moment you will wake up. Then they wake you ten minutes earlier.
- No one appreciates the genius of your conversation like the dog does.
- Outside of a dog, a book is probably man's best friend. Inside of a dog, it's too dark to read.
- Dogs have owners. Cats have staff.
- Don't accept your dog's admiration as evidence that you are wonderful.
- When a man's best friend is his dog, that dog has a problem.
- In order to keep a true perspective of one's importance, everyone should have a dog that will worship him and a cat that will ignore him.

HIRAM™

By WALLY MILLER



Footnotes*

* *Analyzing destruction.*

Hurricane damage from Katrina and Rita raised havoc in Mississippi and Louisiana. Katrina hit the coastal area of Mississippi and the southeastern section of Louisiana centered around New Orleans. The southwestern side of Louisiana faced a violent storm surge from Rita.

According to Ill. Bill Mollere, 33°, Scottish Rite Deputy for Louisiana, some lodge buildings were flooded with three to five feet of water, damaging records, equipment and furniture. Others had mold on the walls up to seven or eight feet.

The Scottish Rite building in New Orleans was spared serious damage. The roof over the stage loft was ripped off, but the scenic drops appear to be salvageable.

The lodge in Cameron is no more, while other lodge buildings in the area had severe damage from tidal surge or wind.

The Scottish Rite building in Lake Charles had five windows blown out and roof damage. The annex had roof and window damage also.

"Stories of Masonic charity and relief are very heartwarming," said Ill. Bro. Mollere. "We have all had families move in for what they thought would be two or three days and stay for a month, but things are beginning to settle down."

Through all the sad stories, there are also tales of joy, happiness and reunion. The Lake Charles Scottish Rite held its annual family day in late October. It provided an opportunity to see each other and share stories. Said Mollere, "That is how Masonry really is."

At press time, hurricane Wilma was racing across southern Florida leaving extensive damage in its wake.

The Masonic Service Association of North America has served as a

clearinghouse for Masonic disaster relief. Since 1923, the MSA has distributed more than \$6 million. When a disaster relief appeal is made, all monies received are forwarded to the Grand Lodges involved.

Any Grand Lodge, blue lodge or individual wishing to make a contribution can send it directly to MSA Disaster Relief Fund, 8120 Fenton St., Suite 203, Silver Spring, MD 20910-4785.

* *A hard day's afternoon.*

The Milwaukee Walk to Help Children with Dyslexia had a surprise donor this year. Scottish Rite Deputy Norman L. Christensen, 33°, reports that as the participants proceeded along the route on Lincoln Memorial Drive, a gentleman riding a bicycle, followed by a security guard, stopped and inquired about the event, its purpose and the charity. He then pulled out his wallet and donated \$100. The mystery donor, as it turns out, was former Beatle Paul McCartney, who was in Milwaukee for a concert.

The incident warranted local TV coverage, and Commander-in-Chief Keith Harmon, 32°, was invited to appear several days later on a local news program to describe the details. Brother Harmon appeared, of course, wearing his Walk-a-thon T-shirt.

* *Masonic exposure.* The Sept. 5 issue of *U.S. News & World Report* carried a cover story on the Masonic fraternity. "Secrets of the Masons: Inside the elite club that helped shape the nation," written by Jay Tolson, made frequent references to Mark Tabbert's new book, *American Freemasons: Three Centuries of Building Communities*.

The author's other reliable sources included Masonic scholars William Moore, author of the forthcoming book, *Masonic Temples: Freemasonry, Ritual Architecture, and Masculine Archetypes*; Steven Bullock, author of *Revolutionary Brotherhood*, and Brent Morris, editor of the *Scottish Rite Journal*.

A companion article by David Shugarts looked at the possible Masonic content in Dan Brown's next novel, *The Solomon Key*.

Brown's novel is tentatively scheduled for release in 2006, perhaps in conjunction with the release of a movie version of *The DaVinci Code* in May.

* *TV coverage.* Powderhouse Productions of Somerville, MA, is producing a two-hour documentary on Freemasonry. The company has worked with the National Heritage Museum and other Masonic institutions to obtain images for the program. The show is scheduled to appear on the History Channel sometime after the first of the year.

* *Singing for folks.* An Ohio Mason has been performing for Masonic groups throughout his home state. Folk singer Howie Damron, a member of South Point (OH) Lodge No. 497, has written a song, "The Masonic Ring," which is included on his CD, "Share the Feelin'." The CD was produced for the Wheelin' Sportsmen of the National Wild Turkey Federation.



RICHARD H. CURTIS, 33°
Editor



Wittnauer Watches Honor Scottish Rite 32° and 33° Freemasons
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